

Licensing and Certification

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Education Service
Washington, DC



Introduction to LAC

This presentation will give you a general overview of the requirements for filing a claim and receiving reimbursement for Licensing and Certification (LAC) tests.

What Is LAC?

Effective March 1, 2001, VA education benefits claimants may be reimbursed for the cost of licensing and certification tests.

Licensing test: a test required to practice an occupation.

Certification test: provides affirmation of an individual's qualifications in a specific field.

Examples

Some examples of LAC tests that may be reimbursable:

- Realtors exam
- Aerobics instructor certification
- Microsoft certifications
- Cisco Systems certification
- Home inspectors certification

Who's Eligible?

Only the following are eligible to receive reimbursement for LAC exams:

- Chapter 30 MGIB Active Duty.
- Chapter 32 Veterans Education Assistance Program (VEAP).
- Chapter 35 Dependent's Education Assistance Program (DEA).
- Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP)

How Much Does It Pay?

- Benefits are payable for the cost of approved tests only.
- Benefits are not payable for other fees or expenses.
- The maximum payment is \$2000 per test.
- Entitlement is charged for each payment.

You don't have to pass a test to be paid for it. VA can also pay you for exams that you don't pass.

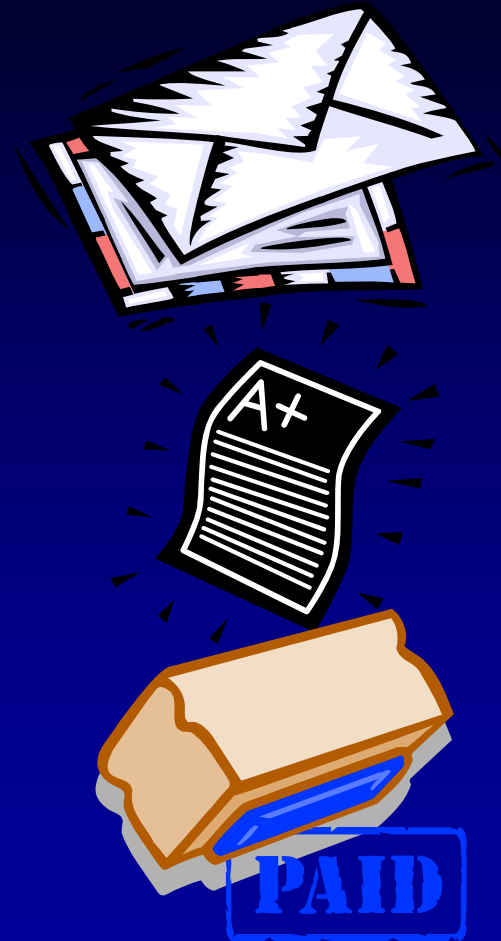
As long as you have remaining entitlement, VA can pay for multiple attempts at an exam.

Are You Eligible for VA EDU Benefits?

- You must first be eligible for VA education benefits under chapters 30, 32, or 35. If you've never applied for benefits, you must first apply and be eligible before any payments will be made.
- Chapters 30 and 32 use VA Form 22-1990 to apply for benefits.
- Chapter 35 use VA Form 22-5490.

What Do I Send to VA?

1. Letter or VA Form 4138 requesting reimbursement for LAC.
2. Your test results.
3. Your receipts showing you paid for the test.



VA needs to see proof
that you paid for and
took the test or
exam.

**It's very important
that you include
with your letter a
statement
authorizing VA to
contact the testing
authority to verify
your test results.**



How Far Back Can I Be Paid?

- By law, VA can't pay for tests that were taken prior to the effective date of the legislation (3-1-01).
- Also, by law, VA can't pay you for exams you took more than one year prior to the date VA receives your request for reimbursement.

How Do I Know If My Test Is Approved for Payment?

To see if your test is approved for VA benefits visit our website:

www.gibill.va.gov and follow the links to a search engine to see if your test is approved.

What If Mine Isn't Listed?

Not all tests and exams are approved for VA benefits.

If yours isn't listed look on the LAC information page of the GIBILL website. You will find the steps your testing institution can follow to have testing approved for benefits.

Organizations Seeking Test Approval

If your organization offers licensing or certification tests, VA urges you to request approval of your tests so that veterans and other beneficiaries may receive reimbursement.

If you represent a State or local licensing board, the approval requirements are minimal. If you represent a non-governmental organization, your test must be generally accepted within the industry, must have been in existence at least two years, and must meet other requirements.

You will be doing our nation's veterans a big favor if you participate in this program. Please understand that all payments will be sent directly to VA beneficiaries and not to your organization. If you wish to seek approval for your organization's tests, find the State approving agency for the State where the headquarters of your organization is located and contact them. [Click Here for a list of the State approving agencies.](#)

How Much Entitlement Will I Be Charged?



You will be charged one month of entitlement when the amount you are paid equals your full time monthly rate including any MGIB buy up amount and college fund payment.

Entitlement is pro-rated for lesser payments.

For More Information:

Go to www.GIBILL.va.gov Use the
“Questions and Answers” section.

Call 1-888-GIBILL1 to speak with an
Education Case Manager in your
jurisdiction.